ROCKEFELLER FINDS NO KENNEDY LINK TO DEATH PLOTS

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But He Indicates White House Must Have Known About Major C.I.A. Actions

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WASHINGTON, June 15—Vice President Rockefeller said today that there had been allegations that President Kennedy and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy might somehow have been involved in alleged assassination plots by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Rockefeller said that the commission he headed in its investigation of the C.I.A. had found no "conclusive information" of such involvement, no evidence "on the basis of which to draw conclusions."

He stated, however, that he thought it "fair to say that no major undertakings by the C.I.A. were done without either knowledge and/or approval of the White House."

Question on Allegations

Asked why the commission had not devoted more time to the assassination allegations, he replied:

"About three weeks ago, on the basis of the information then gathered by our people, it was very clear that the information that had been put together—and let's face it, many of the people have died who were allegedly involved and others were assassinated in this country, tragically, and therefore we were not able to get information we felt would justify conclusions and recommendations."

Mr. Rockefeller was then asked on the NBC television program "Meet the Press": "Did you same some of the American leaders who might have been involved in possible assassination plots had themselves been assassinated?"

He replied that he had indeed said this. In response to a request for names, he said that "we have no conclusive information" and then named President Kennedy and his brother Robert.

Two former aides to Robert Kennedy, Adam Walinsky and Frank Mankiewicz, immediately challenged Mr. Rockefeller's remarks.

"Both the White House and Senator [Frank] Church [chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence] have flatly stated that there is no evidence that President Kennedy or Robert Kennedy were 'involved' in any assassination in any way," Mr. Walinsky and

Continued on Page 14, Column 4

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

Mr. Mankiewicz said in a statement.

"Either Mr. Rockefeller has not read his own report, or he is deliberately lying," they said.

Goldwater Comments

Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, a member of Senator Church's committee, said later on the ABC television program "Issues and Answers." That while "any plot" or "any formation of a committee or a group to do anything like this didn't necessarily have to have the knowledge of the President," he was "convinced" that "the action would never have taken place without the President knowing about it." He said, however, that he really did not know.

Asked about allegations of plots during the Eisenhower and Kennedy Administrations to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba, he said, that he would "presume" in each case that the President had knowledge, but that "these things can be planned without the President knowing it."

The Rockefeller commission was set up last January following published reports of widespread illegal domestic spying by the C.I.A. the commission was subsequently directed to look into allegations of C.I.A. assassination schemes.

Former senior intelligence officers told the commission that there was a "frantic" search for ways to remove Premier Castro after the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion, and that this search could have engendered "several" plans to assassinate Mr. Castro.

Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale, retired, said last month in an interview that Robert Kennedy, acting on behalf of President Kennedy, had ordered him to prepare contingency plans to depose Mr. Castro. General Lansdale said that the matter of assassination as one means of removing Mr. Castro might have been contemplated in the planning. But he ruled out any suggestion that he had ever received specific orders from either of the Kennedy brothers to prepare a plan to assassinate Mr. Castro.

The commission ended its inquiry without completing its investigation of the assassination reports, leaving that subject to the Congressional committees that are investigating the agency.

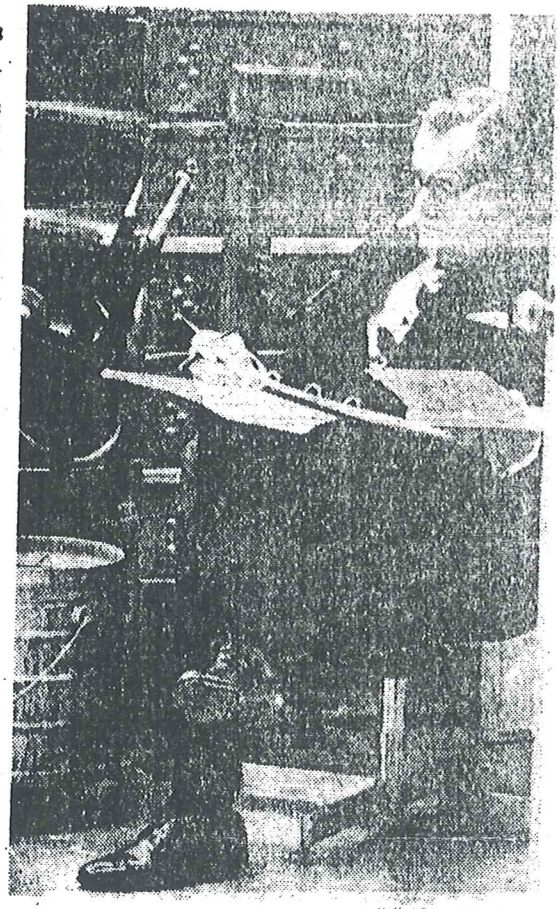
It did submit to President Ford what material it had about alleged assassinations. That material, however, was kept out of the 299-page public report outlining a wide array of illegal acts over a period of years and forwarded only to the Justice Department and the Congressional committees.

Senator Church, an Idaho Democrat, said yesterday:

"I would have to say at this time the committee has no evidence that would directly link C.I.A. involvement in this kind of [alleged assassination planning] activity with Presidents of the United States during the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson Administrations.

Mr. Rockefeller defended the commission report.

"I think the report was factual," he said, "was totally honest, left no stones unturned and drew conclusions and made recommendations on every subject that we felt justified that action."



United Press International

Vice President Rockefeller studying notes in a TV prop room before being interviewed.

Poison Cigar Plot Alleged

NEW YORK (UPI) — The C.I.A. plotted in 1960 to assassinate Premier Castro with poisoned cigars, Time Magazine said yesterday.